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REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 10th March 1900.

CONTENTS.

Page.

I.—Foreign Politics.

Cronje's surrender 167
Cronje ... ... *ib.*
Cronje and his surrender ... ... *ib.*
The Boer defeat 168
The Boer war ... ... *ib.*
Boer warfare 169

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police*—

Gamblers in a village in the Bankura district ... 170
Khulna Police ... ... *ib.*
Thefts in a village in the Hooghly district ... *ib.*
A complaint against the Sealdah Railway Police ... *ib.*

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts*—

An objectionable notice issued by the District Judge of Mymensingh ... ... *ib.*
The sarishtadarship of the Bankipore criminal court 171
The Hazaribagh case ... ... *ib.*

(*c*)—*Jails*—

Nil.

(*d*)—*Education*—

Lord Curzon on English education in India ... *ib.*
Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India" 172
An objectionable proposal of the Faculty of Medicine 173

(*e*)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration*—

The Chairmanship of the Burdwan Municipality ... *ib.*
A road sarkar in the Midnapore district ... 174
The Southampton Municipality ... ... *ib.*
The Burdwan Municipality ... ... *ib.*
The hide godowns in Calcutta ... ... *ib.*

(*f*)—*Questions affecting the land*—

Nil.

(*g*)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation*—

The Nadia rivers ... ... *ib.*
The station-master of Burdwan 175

Page.

The Tarkeswar railway line 175

(*h*)—*General*—

A circular about casual leave in the Public Works Department, Bengal 176
Mr. Rodgers, Conservator of Forests, Darjeeling Division ... ... *ib.*
The Cossipore Small Arms Manufactory ... 177
Non-observance of Muslman holidays in Government offices ... ... *ib.*
Literary pensions ... ... *ib.*
A grievance of the Government pensioners ... 178
The case of a discharged inmate of the Calcutta Lunatic Asylum ... ... *ib.*
The grievances of the Government Press employés *ib.*
The Government on plague inoculation ... 179
The cry of plague in Calcutta ... ... *ib.*
Plague in Calcutta 180

III.—Legislative.

The Telegraphic Press Messages Bill ... *ib.*

IV.—Native States.

Nil.

V.—Prospects of the Crops and Condition of the People.

Nil.

VI.—Miscellaneous.

Lord Curzon's eloquence ... ... *ib.*

Uriya Papers.

The Gains of Learning Bill ... ... *ib.*
A serious offence lightly punished by the Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta ... ... *ib.*
Cow-slaughter at Ahmedabad ... ... *ib.*
The Whipping Act ... ... *ib.*
Indian loyalty ... ... *ib.*

Assam Papers.

Dr. Booth as Director of Public Instruction, Assam ... ... *ib.*
The rumoured transfer of the Second Master of the Sylhet Government School 181

I.—Foreign Politics.

THE *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 1st March writes as follows:— SANJIVANI, Mar. 1st, 1900.

Cronje's surrender.

On Monday morning four regiments of British troops proceeded to carry Cronje's position by assault. The Boers showered a torrent of bullets on the advancing British troops, who were checked at a distance of only eighty yards from Cronje's position. But Cronje was helpless. His rations and ammunition had been exhausted, and there was no chance of his being relieved. The lion of South Africa was subdued, but not before he had shown courage and heroism which had not been shown within the last hundred years. He wrote a letter to Lord Roberts surrendering unconditionally. A conversation ensued between Cronje and Lord Roberts, and the Boer General prayed for kind treatment. He also prayed that his wife, who, with unparallelled devotion, had been sharing with her husband the cares and privations of the battle-field, and his Secretary and personal servants, might be permitted to live with him. Lord Roberts promised to grant Cronje's request.

2. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 2nd March has the following:— SAMAY, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

Cronje.

It is rumoured that a certain high Boer military officer, for some reason or other, turned traitor to his country and not only remained inactive when he should have helped Cronje, but divulged to the British some secrets of his own camp; and that it was this which made the Boers, who are so good strategists, incapable of discovering the plans of Lord Roberts. We do not know how far this rumour is based on truth. But such tactics as the rumour attributes to the English have been in use in warfare from time immemorial.

Those who are giving currency to the rumour are quoting in support of it the following extract from the Boer telegram of the 20th February last:— "Commandant Ferreira was killed the previous day, it was believed, accidentally;" and are saying that it is owing to this Boer traitor that General Cronje has fallen into the hands of Lord Roberts. We do not know what ground there is for saying this. Time will show if there is any truth in it So far as Cronje's surrender is concerned, we must praise, instead of blaming Cronje, for his gallant conduct. By the gallant resistance he offered for twelve consecutive days to sixty thousand British troops with a force only five thousand strong, and by his infliction of heavy losses on the British, Cronje has shown what truth there was in Kruger's statement that "the price which England would have to pay for a victory over the Boers would stagger humanity." Looked at from another point of view, the gallantry of the Boer deserves more praise than that of the English. The Boers are not professional soldiers, like the British troops. Was it not great gallantry on Cronje's part that with his limited resources and untrained troops, he successfully withstood for twelve days the advance of a veteran soldier like Lord Roberts leading an innumerable host? Englishmen themselves have appreciated Cronje's bravery, and are praising it. But many Bengali newspapers seem to think so much of the check which Boer pride has received from Lord Roberts' victory, that far from acknowledging Cronje's extraordinary gallantry, they appear not yet to fully appreciate it. It is not so with Englishmen. They know how to honour a hero, and every domestic circle in England is now talking of Cronje's gallant conduct. Though, by the will of God, Cronje is a prisoner to-day, the fame he has earned by his twelve days' fighting will be recorded in letters of gold in the world's history, and his memory will long live in men's minds, and present and future generations of heroes will worship him as a god. To how many mortals is it given to enjoy such honour in their lifetime?

3. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd March writes as follows:— HITAVADI, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

Cronje and his surrender.

Since Lord Roberts' arrival in South Africa the Free State Boers have changed their mind and refused to fight. It is said that the Boers have killed a Free State Commandant accidentally. We fail to unravel this mystery.

Cronje has surrendered either because the Free State Boers refused to fight, or because his rations were exhausted. But he has shown unparallelled courage and consummate generalship in defending an untenable position against enormous odds for ten days. His bravery and heroism have extorted the

admiration even of the British. His surrender has in no way detracted from his reputation.

We cannot say whether Cronje's surrender will put an end to the war. It is, however, conjectured that the Free State Boers will now cease fighting. It is not, however, expected that the Transvaal Boers will submit to the British. Boer generals like Joubert, Botha and Lucas are still alive, and Lord Roberts will have to fight hard if they are resolved to defend Bloemfontein.

BANGAVASI, Mar. 3rd, 1900.

4. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd March has the following:—

The Boer defeat.

It is all over. The high hopes and expectations, the triumph and enthusiasm of the Boers have all come to an end. The Boer sun, Cronje, is set; and B oer luck has probably set along with it. Cronje, the Boer hero, is now a prisoner with the English.

We are glad of Cronje's capture, because he was our enemy, and, also, because we foresee that his surrender will soon bring this Boer war, in which so many lives have been sacrificed, to an end, and enable the English to plant their victorious standard over the gate of the Boer capital.

According to the *Bombay Gazette*, the Boers have only sixty to sixty-five thousand men on the field. The English, however, have got a force two hundred thousand strong in South Africa. For one Boer soldier there are, therefore, three British soldiers on the field. There can, therefore, be not the least shadow of a doubt that the British must come out victorious.

Joubert, the Chief Commander of the Boer forces, is for concluding a peace. He says:— "How long can I fight the English with my handful of Boer soldiers? I have killed ten thousand British troops in South Africa, but ten thousand fresh troops from England have taken their place. If, however, only a thousand men die on my side my loss will be irreparable."

We repeat what we said before: The English must win in the long run, and here is the commencement of British victory and Boer defeat. Would it not be well to make peace now that the tide has commenced to turn? Enough, Boer insect, why should you be still so eager to jump into the fire? You have had your heart's desire gratified, and your expectations have been partially fulfilled. Boer, the whole world has witnessed your gallantry, and admires your valour and prowess. You have shown what it was in your power to show—you have done what it was in your power to do. Enough, ask for peace, and take England's protection.

Paul Krüger, old politician Krüger of three score and sixteen! Your prophecy is fulfilled. When the war began you said that if the Boers took upon their shoulders the yoke of England's suzerainty the price which England would have to pay for such mastery would stagger humanity. The price which England has had to pay has indeed staggered us. Stop and ask for peace.

This is a day of rejoicing for the Indians. Let one and all rejoice.

It is all over with Cronje; and probably we shall soon hear that the war has come to an end. Victory to Lord Robert! He was at one time the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's forces in India and he was born at Cawnpore in India. Victory to our dear General Roberts!

BANGABANDHU, Mar 3rd, 1900

5. The *Bangabandhu* [Chandernagore] of the 3rd March has the following:—

The Boer war.

Cronje has surrendered to Lord Roberts, and Kimberley and Ladysmith have been relieved. This ends the first chapter of the British Boer war. The English were so long being defeated at every step by the Boers and were giving up their guns to the enemy, but now they have overpowered the enemy by hopelessly outnumbering them, and British territory has at last been cleared of Boers. The first chapter of the Boer war is a chapter of British defeats and reverses. The Boers had invaded British territory, and it is after repeated defeats and repulses that the British have succeeded in driving them out. To tell the truth, British courage and bravery have been eclipsed by Boer heroism. Cronje, with 6,000 troops, has successfully defended himself against 50,000 British troops led by Lord Roberts. Even the greatest of English Generals could not have made such a gallant defence. The defeats which British troops have suffered at the hands of the Boers have been unparallelled in British warfare. It is true that Cronje has been taken

prisoner with all his troops. But the British troops taken prisoners by the Boers far outnumber them. It is true that England has driven the Boers out of her territory, but she has not yet defeated them.

The war will now be carried on in Boer territory, and if the Free State Boers do not cease fighting, England will still have to fight hard, to meet with reverses, and to surrender guns before the war comes to an end. Peace will, of course be ultimately concluded, but it will be well if England can dictate its terms. England may come out victorious in the long run, but the victory will be won at a staggering cost. It will be like the victory of Pyrrhus. British troops have not yet been able to master Boer tactics. The old-fashioned tactics of war in which they are versed will not avail in the face of the long-range guns and smokeless powder of the Boers. The Boer war will teach England the uselessness of her old-fashioned tactics and munitions of war. But England will learn this lesson too late.

Russia is making hostile preparations against England. She is massing troops on the Afghan frontier and has established her influence in Persia and China. England pretends to ignore Russian movements and contradicts the rumour of Russian advance, but she is at the same time making preparations to send troops to Afghanistan and sending men-of-war to the Persian Gulf to watch the movements of a Russian cruiser. It is said that Germany will side with Russia, and France and Turkey are also at the bottom of this alliance. An Egyptian complication is soon going to arise. It is said that the Egyptian troops have become disobedient. The Sultan of Turkey has recently conferred a title on the President of the French Republic. What does this mean?

6. The same paper has the following:— BANGABANDHU, Mar. 3rd, 1900.

Boer warfare.

Since the outbreak of the Transvaal war it has been repeatedly complained that the Boers have studiously violated the rules of civilised warfare and have often given proofs of barbarity. They have shown no respect for the Geneva flag and have fired upon the wounded and their nurses. They have often abused the white flag and have not spared their enemy even when they have showed the white flag as a sign of truce.

We are no friends of the Boers, but we want to know what is meant by civilised warfare. Civilisation and warfare are contradictory terms, and civilised warfare is as much an impossibility as a marble cup made of gold. If civilisation is the opposite of beastliness and barbarity, then it must be admitted that force and bloodshed and malice can have no place in it. Fraternity and kindness are the characteristics of civilisation. Pride, vanity, quarrel, warfare, bloodshed, all these are opposed to civilisation. In the civilised world, if two interests or rights clash with each other, one must resort not to the arbitrament of brute force, but to the arbitrament of reason. In a civilised society the question of force can never be raised in settling a dispute, be the antagonistic interests individual or national. Once warfare is resorted to, the question or plea of civilisation should not be raised, and no enemy should be found fault with for cruelty or barbarity.

When Napoleon surrendered to England, knowing her to be a friend of those who sought her mercy, did she forget her enmity, did she observe the canons of civilisation and humanity? Did she not transport that great man and hero like a common criminal?

To tell the truth, everything is said to be fair in love and in war. It is no doubt against humanity to attack a defenceless enemy, but did that humane consideration prevent Lukshman from attacking unarmed and defenceless Meghnad? It is cowardice to strike an enemy in the thigh, but did Arjun (Bhima?) hesitate to fell down Duryodhan by striking him in the thigh with his mace? During the Kurukshetra war, the two contending parties fought the whole day, but at night when fighting ceased they never failed to carry on friendly intercourse with one another. Hard pressed, however, no contending party shrank from taking any means, fair or foul, to vanquish the enemy. Bhishma ceased fighting when his eyes fell upon the inauspicious face of Shikhandi, and the Pandavas did not let go this opportunity of vanquishing the invincible hero. The canons of warfare have not changed since the days of the *Mahabharat*, and even in these enlightened days no stratagem is left untried to vanquish an enemy. Even the canons of a duel are not observed in

warfare. Burke rightly said that war suspended the rules of moral obligation. It is madness to expect kind treatment from the enemy in warfare.

One thing, again, is beyond our comprehension. According to Christian morality, "whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." But this principle is more honoured in the breach than in the observance in the daily struggle for existence, and certainly also in warfare. But it was to the Christian religion that Cromwell appealed when he incited his soldiers to the Drogheda massacre, and it was to the very same religion that Krüger appealed when he incited the Transvaalers against the English. Christian morality is verily a puzzle to us.

In these days the only standard or test of justice and injustice is success. Success justifies the meanest acts. It is a common saying that "successful rebellion is patriotism." The British Empire is based upon injustice and irreligion, but now that that Empire has been firmly established, who will question the justice of the policy which led to its foundation; who will now dare to say that the Battle of Plassey, the Sikh and the Burmese war, were unjust? But these were civilised warfare. If there is any difference between civilised and uncivilised warfare, it is success which makes that difference.

II.—Home Administration.

(*a*)—*Police.*

BANKURA DARPAN, Mar. 1st, 1900.

Gamblers in a village in the Bankura district.

7. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st March says that there are a large number of gamblers and gambling houses in village Patrasair in the Bankura district. It is generally believed that these gamblers commit thefts in the locality.

KHULNA, Mar. 1st 1900.

Khulna Police.

8. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 1st March says that there has been an outbreak of cholera in village Sahas in the Khulna district. There are no qualified medical practitioners in the village or in its neighbourhood. Many houses left by their inmates have been broken into and all their property has been stolen.

It is stated that the police constables never pay anything to the *manjis* as boat hire, and if the *manjis* refuse to give them their boats, they abuse them most filthily and often take away their ropes and oars. The notice prohibiting the mukhtars from entering the Court Police Office in Khulna is still in force, and the mukhtars are not being allowed to enter the office, except with the special permission of the authorities.

'SAMAY, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

Thefts in a village in the Hooghly district.

9. A correspondent of the *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 2nd March complains that the Chanditala police in the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district have been unable to trace the offenders in any one of the dozen cases of theft which occurred in the village Masat in the course of the last year. Indeed, the village seems to be without any police protection. The District Superintendent of police does not, probably, know anything about its condition. If he did, he would certainly by this time have sent more efficient officers to the Chanditala thana.

HITAVADI, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

A complaint against the Sealdah Railway Police.

10 Lalit Mohan Ghosal of Cossipore complains in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd March of the conduct of the railway police, Sealdah Station. A few days ago the correspondent saw two police constables unlawfully extorting something from two passengers. A railway cooly also extorted something from them. It was ascertained that these two passengers had to pay four annas to the constables and as much as five pice to the railway cooly. The names of these passengers are Abdul, who is a tindal, and Meherali. The correspondent can identify the constables if necessary.

(*b*)—*Working of the Courts.*

CHARU MIHIR, Feb. 27th, 1900.

An objectionable notice issued by the District Judge of Mymensingh.

11. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th February has the following:—

Mr. A. C. Sen, the District Judge of Mymensingh, has issued a notice to the effect that none but pleaders and District Court mukhtars should be allowed to enter the copyists' room in the Mymensingh Judge's Court.

This has caused much inconvenience to the parties and their pleaders, as applications for copies of proceedings have often to be made by the parties or their recognised agents. The pleaders also entrust their muharrirs with this work. The parties now find themselves in great difficulty to get correct information about the time when folios and court-fees should be submitted. It has been ruled by the Calcutta High Court that muharrirs of pleaders have the right to enter any office in a court which their employers are allowed to enter. The parties and their recognised agents are empowered by law to conduct cases. Why should not they be allowed to enter the copyists' room and apply personally for copies of proceedings? If it is the desire of the District Judge to keep the copyists at a safe distance from temptation, we say he is mistaken. This notice will tend to open the path to temptation much wider.

AL PUNCH, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

12. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 2nd March strongly recommends Maulvi Abdul Majid, Head Clerk of the Bankipore Collectorate, for the sarishtadarship of the criminal court, which has fallen vacant by the death of Babu Rajendra Prashad. Considering his past services and fitness for the vacant post, the Maulvi has not his peer in that department. In the criminal court there are only one or two Musalman clerks. There is no reason why the claims of able and qualified Musalmans should be overlooked.

The sarishtadarship of the Bankipore criminal court.

BHARAT MITRA, Mar. 5th, 1900.

13. Referring to the Sibbold case, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says that Mr. Sibbold seems to be very kind-hearted. When he was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 1,000, he requested Mr. French, Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh, to take from him something more in the shape of a compensation to the wife of the deceased. Mr. French, however, ordered that half the fine imposed should be paid to the widow of the deceased. Such an act of kindness is to be seen only in the British *Raj*. It must, however, be said that the fine imposed was very heavy, and such heavy fines may deter Europeans from killing natives. Mr. Sibbold is perhaps sorry because he may have some other day to kill another native, for whom he may have to pay a few hundred rupees more in the shape of a fine. In this way natives will be enriched. The best course for the Government is to pass a law directing all natives to *salaam* any and every European whom they may come across.

The Hazaribagh case.

(*d*)—*Education*.

BASUMATI, Mar. 1st, 1900.

14. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st March has the following :—

Lord Curzon on English education in India.

What was it that first led to the spread of English education in this country? The answer is it was for the sake of service, for the sake of money that English education first came to be prized by the people of India. Even now ninety-nine per cent. of Bengali students become M. A.'s and B. L.'s in order that they may become Deputy Magistrates or Munsifs, or make money by entering the legal profession. Learning for learning's sake is a luxury in which it is possible only for the sons of big zamindars to indulge, but they do not, as a rule, cultivate letters. Want of money leads all others to learn English. It is this want of money and the need of supplying it that lead native parents to give English education to their boys.

It is only by the application of a slow gentle fire that you can have fish stewed in its own juice, and this fish of a Bengali is being stewed in the gentle fire of luxury which has come in the wake of English commerce and English education. That is why we agree with the Viceroy in thinking that "it would be better to revert to the Old Adam, than to inculcate a hybrid morality, or to nourish a bastard civilisation." In plain words it would be better for us to revert to the manners and customs of ancient times than to adopt the present civilisation, which is the outcome of English education; the civilisation, that is, which is neither English nor Hindu, neither British nor Indian; or to follow a morality and a line of conduct, so queer and monstrous that it is consistent neither with the Hindu, the Christian nor the Muhammadan religion. It is our conviction that there can be no education divorced from religion, and that no sovereign is justified in imparting such education to his subjects. If it be desirable to give an education based on religion, the

recipients ought to be exercised in religious acts and observances, and this can only be done by requiring them to live and board with their teachers. Whether you read with the Pandits in the *tols* or with the Hafezes in the *musjids*, or with Christian professors in Oxford or Cambridge, you must, if acquisition of learning based on religion be your object, live in the teacher's house or put up in a boarding house, and get yourselves exercised in the rites and observances of religion. In a *tol* you are required to learn and say your *sandhya* prayers; in a *musjid* you must say your *nemaj* five times a day and in a Christian college you have to read the Bible and attend divine worship. But fascinated by the lucrative character of English education and admiring as he does the convenient arrangements which obtain in day schools, the Bengali father feels no necessity, and finds no leisure, to teach his boys to practice the rites of the religion of his fathers.

There is, again, that English cant of freedom of thought which prevents many educated parents from giving religious education to their boys. And the result is, in Lord Curzon's words: "We are, all of us, familiar with the half denationalised type of humanity who has lost the virtues of his own system, while only assimilating the vices of another." This type has exceedingly multiplied in society. Whether we are a nation of rulers or a subject people, as human beings and as a people we must be known as a distinct and independent community, possessing peculiarities of dress, manner, custom and religion. If we are to be the sons of our fathers, we must be like them at least in some respects, for it is impossible to completely get rid of the characteristics which indicate the stock of which we come. Now it is precisely because the present system of English education is producing a denationalising effect that we are opposed to it. Of course with the progress of time, change is inevitable, and we are fully aware that the manners and customs laid down by Manu and Yajnavalkya, or even those prescribed by later law-givers like Halayudh and Raghunandan will not fully meet the requirements of the present time. We are nevertheless of opinion that all change, if changes there must be, should be consonant to the genius and traditions of the people. The Hindu's nationality is made up of impressions, ideas and associations which have been growing for ages past, and that change alone will prove lasting which is made not only without doing any violence to that nationality, but by preserving that nationality unimpaired. Otherwise "the more violent will be the recoil, and the more disastrous the consequences." The wave of anglicism, which is just now passing over this country, is opposed to the spirit and character of the Hindus. So, the recoil, when it comes, will be extremely violent, and will cause an utter disintegration of society. That result will not certainly be agreeable or welcome to the rulers, for social disintegration will lead to increase of injustice and oppression and breach of the public peace. It was in consequence of some such violent recoil that Puritanism, Calvinism, Mehdism and Nanakism have degenerated into socialism, nihilism, Wahabeism, &c. According to the Hindu Puranas, a persistent and protracted churning of the sea produced *halahal* (poison), which distroys the universe, and it requires a Vanquisher of Death (the God Shiva to drink this poison off. This fearful churning of Hindu society will produce poison, the taste whereof we are gradually experiencing. All will be well if the British Government can, like the God Shiva, drink off this poison.

15. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 1st March has the following:—

Sanjivani, Mar 1st, 1900.

Lee-Warner's "Citizen of India."

The Government seems to be very anxious to teach the Indian people the duties of a citizen. Sir William Lee-Warner was a high Bombay official and a member of the Bombay Legislative Council. He has now retired from service. He has written a book called the "Citizen of India," but unfortunately it was not well received by the Indian public. The book did not sell by the thousand, and the Indian student failed to learn the duties of a citizen. The Government therefore feel the necessity of compelling the Indian student to learn the duties of a citizen, and recommended the book to the University authorities with the request that they should select it as a text-book for a University examination. But difficulty was experienced in determining whether the book was a text-book in history or a text-book in literature. The Board of Studies in History declared that it was not a text-book in history, and the Board of

15

Studies in English declared that it was not a text-book in English literature. The book could not, therefore, be appointed a text-book for a University examination. But the officials are not likely to give up a point on which they have once set their heart. A meeting of the Faculty of Arts will be held next Saturday, and Mr. Buckland will propose that the "Citizen of India" be appointed a text-book for the University Entrance Examination. But as the book is neither a historical nor a literary text-book, a proposal will also be made to make the duties of a citizen a subject for examination. But lest the introduction of this new subject should increase the burden on the student's shoulders, Mr. Buckland will propose that two small historical primers should be appointed in the place of the two existing historical text-books. It is most likely that Mr. Buckland's proposals will be carried at the meeting of the Faculty of Arts, for it is the official element which predominates in this Faculty. But will the independent members of the Faculty remain silent and inactive? We have gone through the "Citizen of India," and it is our firm conviction that the Entrance students will not be able to understand it. The book deals with complicated economical questions which are beyond the comprehension even of the B. A. students. A majority of votes can, of course, carry any and every proposal, but the proposal to introduce such a stiff book as a University text-book cannot have the sanction of reason.

The official Fellows of the University have proposed to lighten the burden on the shoulders of the Entrance students by appointing two historical primers in the place of the existing historical text-books. It is these official members who appointed the text-book on the History of India by Babu Haraprasad Sastri, the political pandit, as a text-book for the Entrance Examination, and it was through their efforts that this book was repeatedly appointed a text-book. But if with the introduction of the "Citizen of India" Sastri's book is struck off the list of text-books, the Entrance students will feel a great relief. It is said that the primer on Indian History by Mr. C. R. Wilson will be appointed a text-book in the place of the existing text-book on Indian History. Mr. Wilson's book is very interesting, but it is a fit text-book only for the lower classes of English schools. The existing text-book on English History is a stiff and dry book, and it will be a great relief if a smaller text-book is appointed in its place.

16. The same paper writes as follows:— SANJIVANI. Mar. 1st, 1900.

An objectionable proposal of the Faculty of Medicine.

At a recent meeting of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Hendley proposed that a medical graduate, who has been convicted of a criminal offence, should be deprived of his degree. Dr. Nilratan Sarkar observed that Dr. Bird was fined Rs. 5 for assaulting a native gentleman, but no proposal was made to deprive him of his degree. Dr. Suresh Chandra Sarvadhikari observed that Dr. Jameson was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for his raid into the Transvaal. Dr. Hendley said that Dr. Jameson was convicted of a political offence, and Dr. Sarvadhikari answered that he had tried to unlawfully possess himself of other people's territory. But all this protest was of no avail, and the majority of the members, consisting of officials, decided to request the Senate to pass a bye-law to the effect that a graduate of the Calcutta University, who is convicted of a criminal offence, should be deprived of his degree. The Medical Faculty's proposal will soon come up for discussion, and considering the predominance of the official element in all the Faculties, it is sure to be carried. The European officials will not, of course, be at all affected. No one can deprive them of their degrees even if they are convicted of murder. To be convicted of a criminal offence is in these days the easiest possible thing in the world. It is a criminal offence to urinate on a public street or to fail to have a death or birth registered. Any one and every one may be convicted of such a criminal offence. But ought a graduate convicted of such an offence to be deprived of his degree?

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

17. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 27th February has the following with reference to the recent orders of the Government, sanctioning the appointment of BURDWAN SANJIVANI, Feb. 27th, 1900.

The Chairmanship of the Burdwan Municipality.

an official Chairman in the Burdwan Municipality on the resignation of Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur:—

The Government deprives the Burdwan Municipality of its right to elect its own Chairman. We, on our own part, do not blame the Government for this. When the Government gave us the right of Local Self-Government, we thought that it would be a blessing. But we have been disillusioned. The Government has spoken in high terms of the services rendered by Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur as Chairman of the Burdwan Municipality. This shows that there are at least a few men in our society who can be entrusted with responsible duties. But we have not as yet learnt to act jointly in any matter.

MEDINI BANDHAV, Feb. 28th, 1900.

A road sarkar in the Midnapore district.

18. A correspondent writes in the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 28th February last, that some carters were unloading their carts, as usual, near the road-side post, but without thereby blocking the road. Babu Rainath Das, a road sarkar of the Sabanga road, in Midnapore, now staying at the road bungalow, sent the bullocks of the poor carters to the pound, without any previous notice, and thus caused them unnecessary loss and trouble.

The bridge over the *khal* No. 6 is being repaired. The wheel and passenger traffic over this bridge is very large, and only those who pay something to the coolies are allowed to pass over this bridge. The coolies in this way have extorted a considerable amount from Umes Jana and some other people of Jamvagram. We do not know whether this tax is being levied with the sanction of the District Board.

SANJIVANI, Mar. 1st, 1900.

The Southampton Municipality.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 1st March writes as follows:—

Southampton is an important English port. The Municipal Commissioners of this town are said to be sadly corrupt. In their debate they unblushingly abuse and defame one another, and sometimes even blows are exchanged. Compared with them, the Municipal Commissioners of Calcutta are gods, and yet Calcutta has been deprived of the right of self-government. But there is no one who can dare do anything to the Municipal Commissioners of Southampton.

SANJIVANI.

The Burdwan Municipality.

20. The same paper fails to understand why the Government is going to appoint an official Chairman in the Burdwan Municipality on the retirement of Rai Nalinaksha Basu Bahadur. Is there no non-official native gentleman in Burdwan to fill Nalinaksha Babu's place? There are many; why is the Government then going to deprive the Burdwan Municipality of the right of electing a non-official Chairman? When the Government cut at the root of self-government in Calcutta, it was feared that Local Self-government was in danger throughout the country. What was feared is now going to pass.

HINDI BANGAVASI, Mar. 5th, 1900.

The hide godowns in Calcutta.

21. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 5th March wants to know what has become of the petition submitted to the Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, soliciting him to direct the owners of the hide godowns in Calcutta to enclose them with *pucca* walls ten yards high. The offensive smell of hides may be one of the causes of the outbreak of plague in Calcutta. When the plague authorities say that plague germs may be found in the phials of sweet scents, it is a great wonder that they do not discover plague germs in hide godowns, which are hotbeds of epidemic disease in Calcutta. The hide godowns ought to be removed from Calcutta and its suburbs. They are a source of trouble and disgust to pious Hindus. A new hide godown has been opened at Barabazar. It is known to every one how the people passing by it have to suffer from the offensive smell of raw hide.

(*g*)—*Railways and Communications including Canals and Irrigation.*

BASUMATI, Mar. 1st, 1900.

The Nadia rivers.

22. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 1st March has the following:—

The people of Southern Bengal are well aware that the three branches of the Ganges and the Padma, namely, the Bhagirathi, the Jalangi and the Mathabhanga, are gradually silting up. The quantity of water which now flows through these three

channels is very much smaller than that which passed out before, causing not only a fall in the fish supply of Southern Bengal, but water scarcity in the regions which they traverse.

For some time past, Government has constituted these rivers into a separate canal division, called the Nadia Rivers Division, under the Public Works Department, and has been collecting toll on all boat traffic in these rivers. The tolls collected have not, however, been sufficient to meet the expenses. Thus, Government has been incurring loss on their account, while it has not succeeded in inducing a sufficient flow of water through them. If the present state of things continues, these three rivers will completly silt up, and the condition of Southern Bengal will become deplorable.

The fact is that Government has not been paying that amount of attention to the condition of these rivers and has not been spending the amount of money on them which the necessity of the case demands. It seems not to have yet realised the fact that Bengal will not be long habitable by man, when its natural water outlets have silted up. Malaria and cholera in Bengal have had their origin in obstructed drainage. The depopulation of Ula-Birnagar by disease was, to our mind, due to a dereliction of the Hooghly river. The fearful outbreaks of cholera in Dacca and Jessore were due to the silting up of the mouths of the rivers which flow past those towns. At one time the Bhagirathi used to pass by the town of Kasimbazar. But, for some reason, the course of the river was changed, and Kasimbazar and several other places on the banks of the old channel were at once depopulated by disease.

To Raja Sasi Sekhar's interpellation, Mr. Buckley replied:—"On sanitary grounds, as well as in the interests of the ports, it is desirable to have as large a discharge as possible in these rivers in the dry months."

If you knew the want, why did you not so long try to remove it? If it be a duty of the Government to save and protect its subjects, why is it so parsimonious in the matter of expenditure? Its duty will be to some extent discharged even if it maintains these three rivers as navigable rivers under stringent rules. To maintain them as canals would subject the people to a tax, and it is donbtful whether it is possible to maintain them as canals. Government has both men and money at its disposal. It is its duty to keep these rivers flowing all the year round.

We know the Government will not attend to the condition of the Nadia rivers so long as it does not tell upon the traffic of the port of Calcutta. We almost feel tempted to wish that the river below Calcutta, the dock and the port, were buried under sand and the trade of the English were interfered with, because, otherwise, we should have no hope of being saved. Any obstruction to the trade of Calcutta will be sure to lead the authorities to look at once into the condition of the river higher up, and lay aside all stinginess in the matter of expenditure.

23. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th March is sorry that the European station-master of Burdwan is a hot-tempered man. Hardly a day passes when he does not fall out with some one or other. It is not only railway employés who receive bad treatment at his hands, but also passengers, native as well as European, who come in contact with him. Once he turned out of the waiting-room some respectable native gentlemen. The higher railway authorities ought to take the station-master to task.

The station-master of Burdwan.

BHARAT MITRA, Mar. 5th, 1900.

24. A correspondent complains in the *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 6th March that there are no good arrangements for the comfort and convenience of the passengers on the Tarkeswar branch of the East Indian Railway. The number of third-class passengers at the Tarkeswar station is very large, but tickets are issued only a few minutes before the departure of a train. There is, consequently, a great rush of passengers at the ticket hall, and female passengers in particular have to experience great difficulty in procuring tickets. There ought to be a separate arrangement for issuing tickets to female passengers, and tickets should also be sold at all hours of the day. There are no latrines or water-closets at the stations on this line, or in the third-class or intermediate class carriages. The passengers suffer greatly on this account. The speed of the train should also be increased. At present it takes two hours and a half

The Tarkeswar railway line.

BANGABHUMI, Mar. 6th, 1900.

to reach Tarkeswar, which is only 36 miles from Howrah. The railway authorities charge third class-passengers an additional one anna for the 22 miles from Tarkeswar to Sheorafully, but first and second-class passengers have to pay no extra amount. Thus, the railway authorities are more kind to the rich, who do not seek their favour, than to the poor third-class passengers. The arrangements for supplying drinking-water at the different stations on this line are also unsatisfactory.

(*h*)—*General.*

CHINSURA VARTAVAHA, Feb. 25th, 1900.

A circular about casual leave in the Public Works Department, Bengal.

25. The *Chinsura Vartavaha* [Chinsura] of the 25th February has the following with reference to the granting of casual leave to clerks in the Government offices:—

For a long time it has been the practice in all Government offices to grant casual leave for fifteen days in the year to all clerks and office employés. Article No. 366 of the Civil Service Regulations does not refer to such leave, and clerks owe this leave to a Resolution of the Government of India, during the administration of Lord Canning, published in the *Calcutta Gazette* of the 20th March, 1858. The following is a copy of that Resolution:—

No. 12.

FORT WILLIAM.—FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

The 19th March 1858.

NOTIFICATION.

READ the following papers relative to the grant of casual leave to uncovenanted servants.

RESOLUTION.—The Hon'ble the President in Council observes that on 12th June last, it was ruled by this Government that casual leave for a few days may, in cases of sickness, be granted to Uncovenanted Civil Servants by the heads of offices at their discretion, without loss of salary, and without such leave being taken into account as part of the two years allowed by Clause I of Section V of the Uncovenanted Service Absentee Rules.

Referring to this decision, the Government of Bombay now enquires whether any, and if so, what limit has been fixed by this Government for the casual leave alluded to.

His Honour in Council remarks that no limit has yet been established, but he considers that the total amount of casual leave should not exceed fifteen days in the course of the year, and he desires that this limit be observed in future.

* * * * * * *

C. HUGH LUSHINGTON,

Secretary to the Government of India.

We are sorry to notice that the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Public Works Department, has issued a demi-official circular, which practically cancels this Resolution of the Government of India. Though the Secretary has not made his order absolute, still his subordinates have to act according to it. He directs that a clerk, entitled to privilege leave, should not be granted casual leave for more than ten days. We do not know what right a Secretary in the Public Works Department has to cancel a rule which has been in force for the last 43 years. What right has he to alter rules which have been laid down by the Government of India? He has certainly exceeded his powers. We draw the attention of the Viceroy and the Lieutenant-Governor to this matter.

SRI SRI VISHNU PRIYA-O-ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, Feb 28th 1900.

Mr. Rodgers, Conservator of Forests, Darjeeling Division.

26. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 28th February complains that Mr. Rodgers, Conservator of Forests, Darjeeling Division, is in the habit of ill-treating his native subordinates by finding fault with their work and fining or reprimanding them at every step.

Most of these subordinate officers are respectable men, and it is not right for Mr. Rodgers to treat them like coolies, simply because they have, for the sake of livelihood, condescended to accept service on poor pay. A correspondent writes to say that though Mr. Rodgers came to the Darjeeling Division only a year ago, he has already made the place too hot for his assistants, who are always in fear of being fined, suspended or reported for dismissal, and none of whom dare come near him lest he should be reprimanded and brow-beaten in the presence of *chaprasis*. The correspondent also says that Mr. Rodgers fined his head-clerk one rupee for being late by 26 minutes in coming to office one day, and fined the Ranger of the Birch Hill Park half-a-month's pay for delaying the submission of his annual report by a few days; that sometime ago, he also fined the Rangers of the Gumpahar and Linchon Ranges one rupee each for going to their duty in unofficial dress. The official dress of the Rangers is made of khaki drill, a kind of cloth which is admirably suited for summer wear, but can scarcely keep out the cold of the winter. It was certainly no great fault of the Rangers, if, in order to keep themselves warm in cold climate like that of Darjeeling, they wore some warm clothing over their official garments.

The Editor cannot vouch for the truth of the above allegations against Mr. Rodgers. But it will be to the shame of Mr. Rodgers, highly placed as he is, if even a fraction of the allegations proves true. Mr. Wild is now at the head of the Forest Department in Bengal. He is said to know of Mr. Rodgers' ill-treatment of his subordinates, and yet he does not check him. Mr. Dansey, whose post Mr. Wild now occupies, was, according to the correspondent, a man of a different stamp, who would have promptly checked such high-handedness as Mr. Rodgers has been guilty of. It is hoped that both Mr. Wild and Mr. Rodgers will treat the subordinates of the Department kindly and thus maintain the prestige of their high positions.

27. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 1st March complains that the Superintendent of the Cossipore Small Arms Manufactory has ordered that no clerk will be allowed to go out during office time without a pass, and the *darwan* should not also allow a clerk to leave office even after office hours without a pass, if he is not accompanied by the head-clerk. What is the object of this highhandedness? The order has created great discontent among the clerks.

SANJIVANI, Mar. 1st, 1900.

The Cossipore Small Arms Manufactory.

28. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd March complains that the gazetted Musalman holidays are not observed in many Government offices. It is true that the Musalmans are permitted to avail themselves of such holidays, but the offices are not closed. This means that the Musalman clerks and office employés cannot avail themselves of holidays without incurring the displeasure of the official superiors. Here is a copy of an office order recently issued by the Comptroller of Military Accounts :—

HITAVADI, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

Non-observance of Musalman holidays in Government offices.

It is notified for general information that the office will not he closed for any Mohomedan holidays in future. Branch offices will permit Musalmans to avail themselves of such holidays without reference to the Comptroller.

J. BIRD, LT.-COL.,—
Comptroller of Military Accts.

Offices are closed during the gazetted Hindu and Christian holidays. Why should not they be closed during the gazetted Musalman holidays? Why should the Musalman holidays be not respected?

29. The same paper is glad that a monthly pension of Rs. 25 has been granted to Babu Dines Chandra Sen, author of "Bangabhasha-o-Sahitya." One, however, fails to understand why the proposal to double the pension has not been granted. To help an author who has ruined his health by his devotion to literature is surely an act that would reflect great credit on the Government. In a case like this false economy need not be observed.

HITAVADI.

Literary pensions.

It is also a great regret that the Government of India has not sanctioned the proposal to grant a pension to Babu Hem Chandra Banerji. It is said

that he has been denied a pension because he has written such patriotic poems as *Bharat Sangit* (India's song) and "*Bharat Bilap*" (India's lament). It will be a great discredit to the Government if this is true. Hem Babu faithfully discharged his duties as a Government pleader and was confided in by the Government, his patriotic poems notwithstanding. It cannot be believed that the Government will hesitate to grant him a pension now that he is blind and old and helpless. We do not consider the officials so mean-minded.

HITAVADI, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

A greivance of the Government pensioners.

30. The same paper complains of the absence of waiting accommodation for Government pensioners in the pension office. All Government pensioners, from a sub-judge to a peon, have to sit on the same bench waiting for payment. Old and infirm people have to go upstairs for their pensions. All this is very irksome and painful. The Government has conferred a great favour on pensioners by increasing the establishment of the pension department. Let it provide suitable and comfortable waiting accommodation for them. The Government ought to see that those who have long and faithfully served it are not put to unnecessary trouble and inconvenience.

HITAVADI.

The case of a discharged inmate of the Calcutta Lunatic Asylum.

31. The same paper writes that prisoners discharged from jails are sent home at the expense of the Government, but people discharged from the lunatic asylum as cured have to shift for themselves. One Lalji Manji, an inhabitant of the Bombay Presidency, was lately discharged from the Calcutta lunatic asylum as cured. He gives out his address as "Natya Kathara, Post Office Natya, District Mundui." This man has not the wherewithal to pay his way home. He is now a helpless beggar on the street and is most likely to run mad again, or earn his livelihood by unlawful means. He applied to the Police Commissioner for pecuniary help, but has received no answer.

HITAVADI.

The grievances of the Government press employés.

32. The same paper has the following:—

Discontent is growing among the employés of the Government press. The press employés are in a special measure accustomed to hard and patient labour, and there must be something serious at the root of their discontent. The chief cause of discontent is that the printers, compositors and other press employés are frequently fined for no offence or for trivial offences. A circular has been recently issued to the effect that a section-holder shall forfeit his remuneration for extra work if the full strength of the staff under him is not present. But why should a section-holder suffer for the fault of a compositor? One or two compositors may be absent from the office almost every day. How is a section-holder expected to prevent this? By all means, fine a compositor who absents himself from office. But why fine the innocent section-holder?

The practice of fining seems to be very much prevalent in the Government Central Press. Here is a list of the fines imposed in December last:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Kali Charan Mullik	26	0	0
Jogendro Lal Panda	25	13	0
Kedar Nath Sen	19	14	0
Kedar Nath Das	13	11	0
Beni Madhav Bid	13	10	0
Tinkari Das...	12	4	0
Thakur Das Das	2	12	0

No one can say that this list is complete. But why this indiscriminate fining? Why this highhandedness? Are the press authorities trying to gain a reputation for ability and cleverness? The attention of the Government ought to be drawn to this strange method of saving press expenditure.

There is another way of making saving, which has been invented by the press authorities. Since 1896, they have been fining a compositor Rs. 36 and a section-holder Rs. 42 a year for what is called "pie sort" in printing parlance. This fining for "pie sort" has only served to make type increasingly run to pie. Forty or fifty thousand pounds of type now remain unused and unusable. We believe that the Government knows nothing about this novel method of saving press expenditure.

A Commission ought to be appointed to enquire into the grievances of the press employés. Government service is generally preferred to private service. But not so in the Government Central Press. Since 1892, 3,300 people have been appointed in the Central Press, but on 31st December 1899, there were only 1,870 people on the rolls, of whom 1,180 belonged to the permanent and 690 to the temporary staff. How are we to account for the remaining 1,430 employés? Did they all die or retire?

This question of unjustly fining office employés is not a political question, and it is hoped that the Government will institute an enquiry into it as soon as it is brought to the notice of the authorities.

33. The same paper has the following:— HITAVADI, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

The Government on plague inoculation.

The Government sincerely believes that plague inoculation is the best plague prophylactic. It has therefore thought it advisable to encourage Haffkine's method of plague inoculation. Lord Curzon has tried his best to convince the public of the usefulness of inoculation at the present juncture, when the plague is rapidly spreading throughout the country. His Excellency, however, has assured the public that they will be at liberty to get themselves inoculated or not, and that inoculation will not be forced on any one. The reason why Lord Curzon is so much loved by the Indian people is that he is so considerate and sympathetic, and is always ready to respect their prejudices.

The public, however, are not unanimous in their opinion about the utility of plague inoculation. They have not yet been able to appreciate its value. We extremely doubt whether it is advisable to get ourselves frequently inoculated with poison. This may be prejudice, but we do not know how to get rid of this prejudice. The Plague Commission say that during the last two years people thrice or four times inoculated were attacked with plague. If this is true, plague inoculation cannot be said to be a sure preventive of plague. This being the case, what is the use of taking a deadly poison into our system?

Are the uninoculated all dying? The causal relation has not yet been established between plague inoculation and immunity from plague. All that the Commission say is that the inoculated have much greater chance of immunity than the non-inoculated. But no one can depend upon such vague assertions. The value of plague inoculation has not yet been scientifically established. The value of vaccination has been scientifically established, and no death from small-pox has been known to have occurred among the vaccinated. But still the utility of vaccination is questioned, and an agitation has been started against it in England.

How many times, again, is a man to get himself inoculated? First there is vaccination. Then come plague inoculation, cholera inoculation, syphilis inoculation, all more or less experimental. Who can say that there will not be started inoculation with snake poison? We cannot believe that the best way to protect a man against disease is to inoculate him with poison. People will not be willing to get themselves inoculated so long as the value of inoculation is not scientifically established. Moreover, what is there to prevent the poison in the system of one person from being carried into the system of another person through inoculation?

In Nathan's work on plague, which says a good deal about the utility of plague inoculation, opinions have been quoted which question its efficacy. Here is a quotation from that work:—

"There is always the danger that the enthusiastic advocate for preventive inoculations, more particularly, if he only have a laboratory, and not a medical or sanitary education, should view with indifference if not actually oppose the application of practical sanitary measures. * * * The efficacy of preventive inoculations against plague remains yet to be proved."

It is thus clear that the utility of plague inoculation has not yet been proved. Again, if inoculation is largely resorted to, the authorities, depending too much upon inoculation, may neglect all sanitary measures for the prevention of the plague.

34. *Al Punch* [Bankipore] of the 2nd March feels very much disgusted at the cry of plague raised everywhere in Calcutta. It is for the authorities to ascertain how many real plague cases are among those reported by the plague officers. AL PUNCH, Mar. 2nd, 1900.

The cry of plague in Calcutta.

BHARAT MITRA, Mar. 5th, 1900.

Plague in Calcutta.

35. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says that plague has actually broken out in Calcutta. Many are leaving Calcutta in a panic. But the hot season has set in and it is hoped that plague will soon disappear from Calcutta. The Calcutta people ought to keep their houses clean.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

BHARAT MITRA, Mar. 5th, 1900.

The Telegraphic Press Messages Bill.

36. Referring to the Telegraphic Press Messages Bill, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says that it has been brought to light that the Government is going to pass the Bill solely for the benefit of Reuter's Agency. The Government already pays that Agency Rs. 1,200 a month, and also gives it some special privileges in addition to that; but still there is a demand for fresh privileges on the part of the Agency. Perhaps it has become unbearable to this Agency that the Native Press should be benefited by its telegrams. Reuter ought to bear in mind that it is out of the Indian exchequer that he is annually paid by the Government of India. It is a regret that he should request that Government to give it something more at the cost of the Native Press.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BHARAT MITRA, Mar. 5th, 1900.

Lord Curzon's eloquence.

37. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th March says that the manner in which Lord Curzon addressed the Dufferin Fund meeting assures one that he has the eloquence to make his audience laugh as well as weep. To tell the truth, his eloquence is unrivalled.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR HITAISHINI, Jan. 31st, 1900.

The Gains of Learning Bill.

38. Referring to a Bill that has been introduced into the Madras Legislative Council with the object of enabling a member of the Hindu joint family to keep the fruits of his education entirely to himself, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 31st January observes that there is no reason why the Government of Madras should be in such a hurry to have such a Bill passed.

SAMBALPUR HITAISHINI.

A serious offence lightly punished by the Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta.

39. Referring to the conviction of Tarapada Paramanik on the charge of enticing away a girl and outraging her modesty, by the Court of Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, which inflicted a fine of Rs. 10 only, the same paper points out that the offence was a heinous one in the opinion of the native public and should have been punished more severely.

SAMBALPUR HITAISHINI.

Cow-slaughter at Ahmedabad.

40. The same paper advises Government to take immediate steps to put a stop to the indiscriminate slaughter of kine that is going on at Ahmedabad under the orders of a trader named De Breton, as that is not only offensive to the Hindus, but injurious to the interests of agriculture.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, Feb. 14th, 1900.

The Whipping Act.

41. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 14th February is of opinion that the punishment of whipping is a barbarous institution and may be abolished without any injury to the interests of the Indian public. The writer observes that a man, even when unjustly whipped, has no means of redress in an appellate court.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

Indian loyalty.

42. The same paper is of opinion that the South African War has afforded a splendid opportunity for a demonstration of the loyalty of the Indians, which has been noted by many English papers in the United Kingdom.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK, Mar. 1st, 1900.

Dr. Booth as Director of Public Instruction, Assam.

43. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 1st March has the following :—

The Chief Commissioner of Assam is in favour of appointing graduates to the Subordinate Executive Service. But in the Assam Educational Service, in which the services of educated men are more necessary, there are

only a limited number of graduates. There are nine Head Masters and four Deputy Inspectors of Schools in Assam, but only six of them are graduates. When Mr. Wilson was the Director of Public Instruction in Assam, he never promoted a man, who had not read up to the B. A. standard to a headmastership. At Mr. Wilson's retirement the Education Department of Assam lost its helmsman. Dr. Booth's health broke down in the teaching line and he came to Assam as Director of Public Instruction to recruit his health by enjoying rest. There is no doubt that there are very few learned men like Dr. Booth in the Indian Educational Service, but we are bound to say that as a Director of Public Instruction Dr. Booth has been a failure. There is no Inspector of Schools in Assam and the Director has to perform the duties of an Inspector also. Dr. Booth has been in Assam for two years, but during this period he has rendered no important service to the cause of education in this province. His head clerk manages his office, and he only signs the letters which are submitted to him. It is very strange that the attention of the Chief Commissioner has not yet been drawn to the extremely neglected Education Department. We do not know how long such a state of affairs will last. The deterioration of the Assam Education Department has begun from the time Dr. Booth was appointed as its head.

Babu Keshab Nath Fukan, an undergraduate, who had served for 14 years as second master, was not thought fit by Mr. Wilson to be promoted to a headmastership. Dr. Booth, however, promoted him to a headmastership, and has since made him a Deputy Inspector. Dr. Booth has also promoted Babu Kali Mohan Das, another undergraduate, to a headmastership, disregarding the claims of graduates, who are now serving as second masters. Should we not then say that Dr. Booth is foolish, unjust and partial ? We see this that it is Dr. Booth's negligence and idleness that are the cause of such improper promotions. To give away vacancies to the right men, Dr. Booth would have to make enquiries, but he is unwilling to undergo even the labour of making enquiries, because he has come to Assam to enjoy rest and not to work. All he does when he has to fill up vacancies, is to order his head clerk to promote the senior officers and there the matter ends. Merit in educational officers in Assam has little chance of being recognised during Dr. Booth's *régime*.

44. The same paper has the following :—

PARIDARSAK, Mar. 1st, 1900.

The rumoured transfer of the Second Master of the Sylhet Government School.

We are sorry to hear that Babu Bidhu Bhusan Majumdar, Second Master of the Sylhet Government School, will soon be transferred from that station. There are few teachers in the Assam Educational Service able and experienced like Bidhu Babu. He has won the hearts of the people of Sylhet by his kind behaviour, and everyone is therefore sorry to hear of his transfer. The school, too, will suffer if he is transferred. Under these circumstances, we hope that the authorities will not transfer him from Sylhet.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 10th March, 1900.

W. H. S.—Reg. No. 8464C—77—14-3-1900.